

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2212 - HB 2297

March 16, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula to fund one full-time school social worker position for each 250 or fewer students, or one full-time position for each LEA, whichever is greater.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$149,436,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures - \$535,300/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- The BEP formula currently funds social workers positions at a ratio of 1:2,000 students.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Education (DOE), changing the funding ratio for social workers to 1:250 increases the number of social worker positions generated through the BEP from 494.7 to 3,907.3, for a net increase of approximately 3,412.6 social worker positions.
- The state share of the BEP will fund approximately \$43,789.50 per social worker position. Re-calculating the FY20-21 BEP, using a social worker to student ratio of 1:250 will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of approximately \$149,436,048 for FY22-23 and subsequent years (3,412.6 positions x \$43,789.50).
- The increase in BEP funding will increase the minimum required local match by \$68,385,000 for districts receiving an increase in BEP funding as a result of this bill.
- Most districts already contribute local funds in excess of the minimum required local match; however, it is estimated that three districts would need to increase their local contribution in order to meet the increased required local match.
- The total mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures for such districts is estimated to be \$535,315 in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- Future legislation which alters the BEP funding formula may result in local governments utilizing current excess local contributions to fund the minimum local match requirement and a combination of multiple such legislation may result in mandatory increases in local match requirements for certain school districts.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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